

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 14, 2019

In-Person

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Jana Rhoads, Janee Harvey, Heather Davidson, Debbie Orduna, Teresa Burke, Tom Bouska, Dawn Turner, Rick Venenga, Susan Smalley, Darin Thompson, Emily Blomme, and Theresa Lewis

Members not in attendance: Jean Slaybaugh, Chris Koepplin, Leta Hosier, Bill Kallestad, and Mike McInroy

Observers in attendance: Kristie Oliver and Kelli Soyer, Coalition

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting this month was to introduce the newest members of this committee due to several changes since the last meeting as well as provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

There were several changes to membership of this committee, including:

- Emily Blomme, Executive Director with Foundation 2, replaced outgoing member Mary Macumber Schmidt. Emily's initial term is effective through June 30, 2019 but she is eligible for a second term through June 30, 2022 if approved by the Coalition Board.
- Theresa Lewis, Program Effectiveness Officer with Four Oaks, replaced Andrew Allen who stepped down due to other commitments. Theresa's initial term is effective through June 30, 2021.
- Darin Thompson, DHS Bureau Chief with Service Contracts and Support, will attend on behalf of Jean Slaybaugh.
- Bill Kallestad will replace Rick Venenga when his term expires. Bill will attend meetings as an observer in order to fully transition over to the membership role effective July 1, 2019.
 - Rick is the current co-chair representing the private side. A new co-chair will be selected for a one year term effective July 1, 2019.
- Susan Smalley's initial term is effective through June 30, 2019 but she is eligible for a second term. The committee members approved Susan's second term through June 30, 2022.
- Heather Davidson is replacing Mindy Norwood as the CWPC Coordinator.
 - The Bureau of Child Welfare Services which Heather and Mindy are both a part of is taking advantage of opportunities with the Family First legislation expectations to align responsibilities. Mindy's responsibilities are being arranged specifically around family-centered services. Heather will be the point person for this committee moving forward.

There was further discussion regarding the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) as well as overlap of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) required Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for the state. Janee shared there are currently five workgroups identified: 1) Communication and Marketing, 2) Training, 3) Information and Technology/Systems, 4) Practice and Forms, and 5) Data. The Communication workgroup is in the process of drafting several one page documents written for specific audiences regarding Family First which includes such topics as:

- Foundation/101 on Family First
- Flowchart of workgroups
- What are Evidence Based Programs? Why important? Where are they in Iowa?
- Outcomes
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

These one page documents will be rolled out in phases and eventually posted to the DHS Family First webpage. <https://dhs.iowa.gov/Child-Welfare/FamilyFirst>. This webpage will be updated to include information on FFPSA.

Janee shared that Annie E. Casey (AEC) is providing the Department with technical assistance and within the next 30-60 days, there should be an analysis report provided to DHS.

A brief legislative update was provided. There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed overhaul of the current DHS child welfare information system to become bi-directional as well as proposed funding to hire additional DHS staff.

There was discussion regarding the need to begin planning for the next annual statewide meeting. The following members volunteered to be part of the planning: Emily Blomme, Theresa Lewis, Janee Harvey, and Heather as the coordinator. Any specific topics to cover at the meeting should be provided to these members for consideration. There was a request for updated data from the power point presented on during the last meeting.

Next steps:

1. The next meeting of the CWPC is scheduled as a conference call on March 14, 2019 from 1-2:00 p.m. (cancelled)
 - a. The April 11, 2019 meeting is scheduled as a conference call from 1 – 2:00 p.m.
 - b. The May 9, 2019 meeting is scheduled as an in-person meeting from 1 – 3:0 p.m.
2. Mindy will email Emily and Theresa the survey results from the June 2018 annual statewide meeting since they agreed to be part of the planning committee for the 2019 meeting in addition to Janee and Heather.

Our Vision:

The combined experience and perspective of public and private agencies provide the best opportunity to reach our mutual goals: child safety, permanency, and well-being for Iowa's children and families. Collaboration and shared accountability will keep the focus on child welfare outcomes.